

KNARESBOROUGH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



MEDICAL OFFICER'S
Annual Report,

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1904.

KNARESBOROUGH:

W. PARR, GENERAL AND COLOUR PRINTER, HIGH STREET.

1905.



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KNARESBOROUGH

Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT,

For the Year ended December 31st, 1904.

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Knaresborough Rural
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I have pleasure in laying before you my Sixth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Knaresborough Rural District, for the year ended December 31st, 1904.

Since my last report the district has been altered by the extension of the boundary of the Knaresborough Urban District, incorporating portions of Scriven and Knaresborough Outer. The statistics in Table I. herewith appended for the years 1894 to 1903 (inclusive), are for the district as it existed in those years. They are not of much use for comparison with those for the present year, but are given at the request of the Local Government Board.

The estimated population of the District up to the middle Population. of the year 1904, is 8,130. There has been an increase on last year of about 450, but 420 have been transferred to the Urban District of Knaresborough.

Births.

The number of births registered in the district during the year was 204, viz., 98 males and 106 females. The annual birth rate is 25·1 per thousand of the estimated population of the district. Although this is a slight improvement on the year 1903, still it is rather low. The birth rate for England and Wales was 27·9 per thousand, and this is the lowest on record.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the district in 1904 was 105. This gives an annual death rate of 12·9 per thousand of the estimated population. Although this rate is somewhat higher than last year, still it is highly satisfactory as compared with that for England and Wales for the same period, which was 16·2 per thousand.

The deaths in children under one year of age were only 13 in number; of these 7 were from premature birth, so that only 6 were due to actual disease. The infantile mortality for the year was 63·7 per thousand births registered. This is very low compared with that for England and Wales for the same time, which was 146 per thousand births.

Between the ages of 1 and 25 the number of deaths was 26; between 25 and 65 the number was 34; and in persons over 65 years of age there were 42 deaths.

Causes of Death.

The principal causes of death were Heart Diseases, 18; Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases, 11; Cancer, Bronchitis, Pneumonia, 6 each; Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, 2 each; Whooping Cough, Enteric Fever, and Diarrhoea, 1 each.

Zymotic Diseases caused 5 deaths. This gives a Zymotic death rate of 0·61 per thousand per annum. The Zymotic death rate for England and Wales for the same period was 1·94 per thousand.

Heart Disease.

The number of deaths from Heart Diseases, viz., 18, is unusually large for the district. They were however principally in persons over 70 years of age, so that the disease does not seem to have shortened these lives very much, if at all.

Only one death from Diarrhœa occurred during the year. **Diarrhœa.** This was in a child under one year of age. The deaths in infants from this cause have been very few during the last three years. It is to be hoped that this low death rate may continue. This, however, is not to be expected, as, with a hot and dry summer, the death rate from this cause soon mounts up. This is largely owing to the improper and careless feeding of infants, particularly bottle fed children. As a preventative measure, I have thought for some time that at the registration of each birth a leaflet should be presented to the parent, giving a few general directions as to the feeding and care of an infant. If this suggestion should meet with your approval, I shall be pleased to draw up such a leaflet for distribution by the registrars of births in your district.

Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases caused 11 deaths. **Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases.** This is an increase on the two previous years, the numbers being 1902, 5; and 1903, 9. The increase is in tubercular diseases of other organs of the body other than tubercular disease of the lungs.

The number of deaths from Cancer was 6. This is about **Cancer.** the average number of deaths from this cause annually in the district.

There were 58 cases of Infectious Diseases notified during **Diseases Notified.** the year as compared with 36 last year. These were Scarlet Fever, 41; Diphtheria, 7; Enteric Fever, 7; Small Pox, 1; Erysipelas, 1; and Continued Fever, 1.

Scarlet Fever was very prevalent in portions of the district **Scarlet Fever.** during the year. It was, however, in those parishes bordering on neighbouring districts in which the disease was epidemic that it principally occurred. Many cases appeared to be due to infection from patients returned from the infectious hospital. There has been such demand on the limited accommodation at the temporary Isolation Hospital, that patients may possibly, in a few cases (in order to provide for patients in a more serious condition), have been allowed to return home sooner than they otherwise would have done had there been plenty of beds for Scarlet Fever patients. This defect will be remedied by the

opening during the year 1905 of the New Isolation Hospital. Two deaths were due to it. Bilton, Pannal, Nidd, and Brearton, suffered most from the disease. The number of patients treated in hospital was 17.

Diphtheria. There were 7 cases of Diphtheria in the district, two of which proved fatal.

Enteric Fever. The cases of Enteric Fever, 7 in number, were of a mild nature, 1, however, proved fatal.

Whooping Cough. Whooping Cough was not prevalent during the year. An outbreak occurred at Hampsthwaite, where the school had to be closed for a short time. One death occurred from it.

Measles. Several slight outbreaks of measles occurred during the year, but were of a mild nature. No deaths were due to it.

Small Pox. One case of Small Pox occurred in the district. This was, however, in an official of the Joint Isolation Hospital employed in removing patients to the hospital.

Sewerage and Drainage. There has been no sewerage works during the year in your district, except a short length of about 200 yards of sewer at Burton Leonard. A scheme for draining Forest Moor has been submitted to the Local Government Board. Another scheme for Pannal will, I hope, be undertaken during the year. Follifoot and Scotton are much in need of drainage.

Water Supply. The district is gradually getting well supplied with pure water. The windmills at Burton Leonard, Killinghall, and Follifoot, are working satisfactorily. The latter has given some trouble, but I expect this will soon be rectified. The water supplied by these mills is of the very best quality, and ought to be a great boon to the respective parishes. The water supply to Plompton Square and several of the farms in that neighbourhood is abominable. The water from the well supplying the former place resembles the surface water from roads. The wells supplying the farms are polluted by drainage and are quite unfit for use for domestic purposes. Your Council have been promised a suitable supply for several years, but it is not yet forthcoming. I believe, however, that this matter is likely to be remedied in the near future.

The water supply to Kettlesing, in the Parish of Felliscliff, requires some slight alterations. The spring is of good quality, but the interception in the pipe track of a cattle trough for each field through which it runs, is, to say the least of it, very objectionable.

There are 9 Slaughter Houses registered in the district, all of which are in a satisfactory condition. The provision of two or three public slaughter houses for the district would give easier and consequently much better supervision. **Slaughter Houses.**

There are 97 Cowsheds registered in the district, these are in a satisfactory condition. **Cowsheds.**

The number of Factories and Workshops in the district is 59, viz., Domestic Workshops, 2; Retail Bakehouses, 7; Laundries, 3; and other workshops, 47. There are 10 work places. **Factories and Workshops.**

No defects in the sanitation of workshops have been found, and consequently no action has had to be taken in this direction. **Sanitation of Workshops.**

The 7 Bakehouses in the district are in a satisfactory condition, and comply with the act in every respect. **Sanitation of Bakehouses.**

There are no underground Bakehouses in the district. **Underground Bakehouses.**

This portion of the act does not apply to any Factory Workshop in your district. **Safety from Fire.**

There is no "Home Work" in the district within the meaning of the act. **Home Work.**

I have the honour, Gentlemen, to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. FORBES,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 27th, 1905.

TABLE I. Vital Statistics of the Whole District. TABLE III. Infectious Diseases notified during 1904.

Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Residents in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.		NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole District.					No. of cases removed to Hospital at all ages.
	No.	Rate	Under 1 Year.		At all Ages.		No.				Rate								
			No.	Rate ‡ 1000 Births registered.	No.	Rate													
1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	DISEASE.	At all Ages.	Un-der 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	1
1894	274	31.1	45	164.2	154	17.53				217	18.08	Small-pox	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
1895	291	32.8	42	144.3	171	19.28						Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1896	318	32.7	54	169.7	167	17.21						Diphtheria	7	..	2	4	...	1	...
1897	361	36.1	50	138.5	149	14.90						Membranous } Croup }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1898	393	37.4	65	165.4	195	18.57						Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
1899	375	32.9	59	157.0	213	18.68			1			Scarlet Fever	41	...	8	21	11	1	17
1900	464	38.6	61	131.4	216	18.00	...	...				Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1901	202	28.2	30	148.5	119	16.60	3	3	1	117	16.30		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1902	192	25.4	19	99.0	100	13.20	...	...	...	100	13.20	Enteric Fever	7	...	...	...	1	6	...
1903	183	22.6	12	65.5	89	10.98	5	3	...	86	10.60	Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Aver- ages for years 1904- 1903.												Continued Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
												Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
												Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1904	204	25.1	13	63.7	108	13.28	5	3	...	105	12.91	Totals ...	58	...	10	25	14	9	18

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—37,390. Total population at all ages—7,102. Number of inhabited houses—1,488. Average number of persons per house—5. (At census of 1901). Isolation Hospital—Harrogate and Knaresborough joint.

* The statistics in columns 1894 to 1900 are for the district previous to the Harrogate extension. Those under 1901 to 1903 are for the district previous to the Knaresborough Urban District's extension. Those under 1904 are for the district as it now stands. Averages of these would be useless and misleading.

TABLE IV.

KNARESBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.	
Scarlet Fever	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	5
Whooping Cough.....	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria & membranous croup	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Fever—Enteric	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	...	...	2	1	4	...	...
Other tubercular diseases	4	1	1	...	2	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease.....	6	...	...	...	...	4	2	...
Bronchitis.....	6	1	3	...	...	...	2	...
Pneumonia	6	...	2	...	...	2	2	...
Alcoholism, cirrhosis of liver	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Premature Birth	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases.....	18	...	...	...	...	5	13	...
Suicides.....	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
All other Causes	38	2	4	...	6	7	19	...
All causes	105	13	13	3	10	24	42	5

TABLE C.—1904.

Medical Officer of Health.—W. J. FORBES, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Sanitary Inspector } —WILLIAM LUPTON.
Building Surveyor }

WATER SUPPLY—

Quality.—Variable.

Action on Lead.—None.

Any extensions or change during 1904?—Follifoot.

Any inadequacy in any part?—Plompton.

SEWERAGE—

Is the district systematically sewered?—Portions.

Is rainfall from roads excluded?—Front Streets.

Extensions or Improvements during 1904.—Sewers, 193 yards at Burton Leonard; Manholes, none; Ventilating Shafts, One at Killinghall.

Any inadequacy, and where?—See body of report.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

System adopted—Broad Irrigation.

Any extensions in 1904?—No.

Any complaint in neighbourhood of sewage works?—No.

SCAVENGING—

Are the privy-middens, ash-places, &c., cleansed by Sanitary staff, by Contractors, or by Owners and Tenants?—Owners and Tenants.

Any inadequacy of scavenging?—No.

ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Acts adopted during 1904 (or parts),—None.

Any diseases added to Notification schedule, *e.g.*, Measles, Chicken-pox, &c.?—No.

Any system of voluntary notification of Phthisis?—No.

BYE-LAWS—

Any adopted or sanctioned during 1904?—Under the Public Health Act, 1875—Scotton Building Bye-laws.

Under the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.—No.

REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &c.—

Common Lodging Houses—None. Canal Boats—None. Slaughter Houses—Number in District, 9 ; Number on Register, 9 ; Number Inspected, 9 ; General Condition, Satisfactory. Legal Proceedings (if any).—None. Cowsheds—Number in District, 97 ; Number on Register, 97 ; Number Inspected, 97 ; General Condition, Satisfactory. Legal Proceedings (if any).—None. Offensive Trades—None.

COWSHEDS—

Give date of Regulations in force under D.C.M. Order.—July 9th, 1902.
Any special inspection made during 1904.—No.
Any action taken by outside Authorities, *e.g.*, under “ Milk Clauses ” concerning milk supplied from this district?—No.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE—

What disinfecting apparatus is available?—Steam Disinfecter.
How are dwellings disinfected?—Alformant Lamp and Sulphur Candles.
Any placards or handbills issued during 1904?—Notice *re* Registration of Cowsheds.

SCHOOLS—

Number closed during 1904 on account of sickness, 4 ; Total duration of such closure, 11 weeks.
Any ailment or contagious disease associated particularly with school life during 1904?—No.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT—

Number of Workshops in the district, as per Register—59. Number of Inspections during 1904—59. Legal Proceedings—None.
Number of Bakehouses included in above—7.
,, of Underground Bakehouses in district—None.
,, of Domestic Workshops in above—2.
,, of Domestic Factories in district—None.
,, of Lists of Outworkers' received—None.
Any action as to unwholesome or infected Outworkers' premises—No.

DWELLINGS—

Number of Houses built during 1904—69.
General Character—45 Cottages, 24 Residential.
Any houses unfit for habitation?—No.
Any overcrowding of persons in houses?—No.
Any action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts?—No.
Is house-to-house inspection systematically made?—Yes.
Are records kept?—Yes.

NUISANCES—

Total Number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1903—25. At close of 1904—19. Reported during 1904—104. Abated during 1904—110.

Total Number of Legal Notices served for Abatement of Nuisances during 1904—3, others by letter.

Total Number of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings—None.

Number of Sink wastes disconnected during 1904—None.

Number of Sink wastes trapped during 1904—7, and all new houses.

Number of Closets newly constructed during 1904—1 to each new house. Kinds—Chiefly W.C.

Number of Closets reconstructed during 1904—3. Kinds—Privies, 2 converted into W.C.'s.

What action has been taken in regard to the following matters?

Seizures of Unsound Food—None. Prosecutions—None.

Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Act—None. Prosecutions—None.

Has there been any poisoning during 1904 attributable to arsenical beer?—No. Ptomaines?—No. Lead-contaminated water?—No.

River Pollution—None.

Smoke observations taken—2. Legal Notices—None.

Burial Grounds—Number in District—14. Any need for extension?—No.

Mortuaries—Number in District (a) for accidents—None. (b) Other—None.

BIRTHS DURING 1904—Males, 98; Females, 106; Total, 204. Number illegitimate, included in above—No information. Number of Still Births (not included)—No information.

DEATHS DURING 1904—(1) Gross Deaths, *i.e.*, Total actually registered in the district, without any correction—108. (2) Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated—Males, 57; Females, 48; Total, 105.

Number uncertified, included in the above—None.

Sanitary Requirements of District, and Suggestions of Medical Officer of Health:—See body of Report.



